

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 500 - HB 1610

April 3, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires railroad companies to establish and maintain a heated room, containing wash basins, shower-baths, inside toilets, and sufficient lockers, at all terminals and headquarters in the operation of the railroad company for the use of its employees. The company must maintain sanitary drinking water at permanent assembly points and sleep cars in mobile camps for the use by employees. Requires companies that operate commissary cars for the preparation of food for maintenance of way employees to ensure the food preparer is certified, the food is served according to food handling guidelines, and proper containment, storage, and transportation of prepared food. Requires a company to notify the local health department of a mobile camp's existence, request and permit an inspection to ensure conditions of the camp are sanitary, and immediately report an outbreak or report of any communicable or contagious disease, sickness, or illness of an employee, or the release of any hazardous materials. Requires the Department of Transportation to investigate any report of unsanitary conditions and conduct a hearing giving the railroad company and the employees full opportunity to present evidence as to the necessity and reasonableness of the proposed changes and/or improvements.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$6,000/One-Time
\$122,200/Recurring**

A more precise cost estimate is not possible because the Department of Health has not provided any information to assist in the preparation of this fiscal note.

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Transportation, two additional employees would be needed to enforce various health and sanitary conditions, conduct investigations, conduct hearings, and if necessary, pursue legal action. These positions will result in an increase in

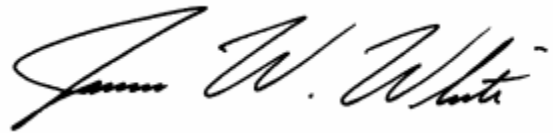
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expenditures of \$107,200 salaries (\$72,000), benefits (\$24,480), and travel (\$10,760).

- Hearing and litigation costs are estimated at \$15,000 for one event per year.
- Training costs for 12 current employees will result in one-time expenditures of \$6,000.
- The local health departments will not incur a significant increase in expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml